The Efforts of the Supreme Council for Women in raising awareness on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
Introduction

The Kingdom of Bahrain joined the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in the year 2002. Upon joining the Convention on June 18 2002, the Kingdom of Bahrain has started applying the rules of the convention putting into consideration that the legislations of the Kingdom call upon the implementation of equality between men and women in most of it’s articles mentioned in the constitution, National action charter and in the fields of Health, Education, Political life, Family law etc prior to joining the convention. The Kingdom of Bahrain has preserved some of the articles mentioned in the convention due to their collision with Islamic Shari’ a. As an implementation of recommendation no (10) of the convention this book is being issued as a documentation of the efforts of the Supreme Council for Women in raising awareness about the CEDAW.
The Elimination of the discrimination against women and promoting their equality with men are the basic principles of the United Nations, considering that discrimination against women is still existing on a large scale.

The legal methods and the international mechanisms for defending Human rights are considered insufficient for assuring the protection of the Human rights for Women.

Discrimination against women is considered a flaw in the principles of the equality of rights and respect for Human dignity. It acts as an obstacle in the participation of women in political, social, economic and cultural life as equal to men in their countries. It also acts as an obstacle in the development of the family and society.

The participation of women as equal members of the society in all walks of life is required for the development of countries, the interest of the world as a whole and the peace process.
The meaning of Discrimination Against Women:

It is every discrimination, exclusion or restraint on women due to gender which therefore leads a woman not to practice her basic rights in different fields of life as equal to men, excluding her marital status.

The Main articles of the Convention

- Requesting member countries to eliminate discrimination in practicing all civil, political, economical, social and cultural rights.

- The sixteen core subjects of the convention specify certain fields that are related to violations of women rights and different means of eliminating them.

- The convention shall not have a negative influence on national or international norms that can achieve equality between men and women.
Member countries have agreed to taking major steps on the national level towards developing the status of women through legal and administrative procedures, using temporary solutions to resolve some social and cultural issues, fight women trafficking and prevent using women for prostitution purposes.

Member countries are obligated to protecting women’s public and political rights. The countries have also agreed upon providing women with the right to vote and be voted as equal to men, involving women in decision making and to represent their countries on the international level.

Member countries have agreed to provide women and their children with citizenship rights as equal to men.

Member countries have undertaken a number of different obligations to eliminate discrimination against women’s rights in education, employment, health and political, social and cultural life.

Member countries have abided to taking into consideration problems of village women, eliminating discrimination against them, involving them in the village development and therefore giving them equal rights to men.

The member countries have agreed to provide judicial equality to women through practicing their legal rights and in particular in the field of personal and family status.
AWARENESS PROGRAMMES
Workshop on building awareness for the CEDAW

The Supreme Council for Women along with the five governorates of the Kingdom organized a workshop on building awareness of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Duration:


Place:

- Bahrain International Exhibition Centre.

Objective of the Workshop:

- Raising awareness of the convention through introducing its contents, articles and the obligations of the countries towards the CEDAW.
Lecturer:

The Expert Aza Sulaiman - Director of the Centre for Egyptian Women’s legal assistance.

Participants:

- Employees of the Government sector.
- Employees of the Private sector.
- Representatives from women, Islamic, career and youth societies along with housewives.

Expert Aza Sulaiman
Workshop for the National committee in charge of preparing the official report of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the CEDAW.

The Supreme Council for Women organized an introductory workshop for the members of the committee in charge of preparing the report of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Duration:


Place:

- Gulf International Convention Centre.

Subjects of the Workshop:

- The contents of the convention, the status of Bahrain, the meaning of discrimination against women, political participation, citizenship cases, education, labour, health and violence against women.
Lecturer:

The Expert Aza Sulaiman- Director of the Centre for Egyptian Women’s legal assistance.

Participants:

The national working group consisting of 36 members to represent 28 different official and civil society establishments in charge of preparing the report, formed upon directives given by Her Highness the President of the Supreme Council for Women. The group provided and gathered information on the status of women and prepared the initial reports related to the practical part of the report linked to the articles of the convention.
Workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against women.

The Supreme Council for Women organized a workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Gender to introduce the historical view of Gender and the means through which equality and empowerment can be achieved.

**Duration:**


**Place:**

- The Diplomat Hotel.

**Objectives of the Workshop:**

- Introducing the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women through presenting the participants with an analysis of the articles and the obligations of member countries.

**Lecturer:**

- Dr. Farida Bennani - CEDAW expert at the United Nations.
- Mrs. Suheir Azzouni – Gender expert at the United Nations.
Participants:

- Employees of the Supreme Council for Women.
- Members of Women Societies.
- A number of employees from ministries, government establishments and governorates.
An Introductory workshop on the CEDAW (Workshop 11)

The Supreme Council for Women has organized 11 introductory workshops for the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in order to introduce students from both government and private schools to the articles of the Convention.

Objectives of the Workshop:

- Presenting a better understanding of the CEDAW.
- Building awareness on the articles of the convention and the obligations and preservations of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Lecturer:

- Dr. Mohammed Waleed Al Masri – Manager Law education program, College of Law, University of Bahrain.
- Dr. Marwan Al Modares - Assistant Professor, College of Law, University of Bahrain.

Participants:

- Students of Government Schools
- Students of Private Schools
- A number of teachers.
Part of the workshop
## Workshop

<p>| For the Students of Government Schools in the Central Governorate. | 21 October |
| For the students of government schools in the Northern Governorate. | 22 October |
| For the students of government schools in the Southern Governorate. | 23 October |
| For the students of government schools in the Muharraq Governorate. | 24 October |
| For the students of government schools in the Capital Governorate. | 25 October |
| For teachers of both genders. | 11 November |
| For teachers of both genders. | 12 November |
| For students of private schools. | 13 November |
| For students of private schools. | 14 November |
| For students of private schools | 15 November |
| A special workshop upon the request of Shaikh Abdulla Al Khalifa Secondary Industrial school for Boys. | 29 November |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 October</td>
<td>Tubli Primary School for Girls</td>
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<td>22 October</td>
<td>Yathreb Intermediate School for Girls</td>
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<td>23 October</td>
<td>East Riffa Primary School for Girls</td>
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<td>24 October</td>
<td>Omar ibn AbdulAziz Primary School for Boys</td>
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<td>25 October</td>
<td>Halima Al Sa’adia Intermediate School for Girls</td>
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<td>11 November</td>
<td>Um Kalthoum Intermediate School for Girls.</td>
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<td>12 November</td>
<td>Yathreb Intermediate School for Girls</td>
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<td>Yathreb Intermediate School for Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 November</td>
<td>East Riffa Primary School for Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 November</td>
<td>The School’s Auditorium</td>
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Part of the workshops
FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE REPORT
A meeting with the official and civil society establishments to discuss the Kingdom of Bahrain’s supplementary report (First and second report) of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

The Supreme Council for Women organized a meeting with the official and civil society establishments to discuss the Kingdom of Bahrain’s supplementary report (First and Second report) for the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.

**Duration:**

- 4 March, 2008

**Place:**

- Supreme Council for Women

**Objectives of the workshop:**

- Receiving recommendations from women societies on the Convention on Elimination of all forms Of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in order to involve them in the supplementary report.
الاتحاد النسائي يتبقي و الجند. يثير جداً

ال أعلى للمرأة يناقش مع المجتمع المدني تقرير سيداو

تعتبر النساء نواة الثورة العربية الكبرى، إذ تلعب دوراً حاسماً في تحقيق الاستقلال، وتعمل على إAGAIN

Index card searchable text

الوسط

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Part of the workshop
Workshop on the procedures for the discussion of the report of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women as an introduction to the working methods of the CEDAW committee.

The Supreme Council for Women organized a workshop on the procedures for the discussion of the national report (First and Second report) of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against women (CEDAW).

**Duration:**


**Place:**

- The Supreme Council for Women.

**Objectives of the Workshop:**

- Presenting a brief on the CEDAW and the national report for the convention, mechanisms of presenting the report, working methods of the CEDAW committee and a training session on presenting and discussing the report with the CEDAW committee.

**Lecturer:**

- Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazalah – Secretary General of the National Council for Family Affairs, Member of the Senate in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
Participants:

- The team in charge of discussing the Kingdom of Bahrain’s report with the CEDAW committee in the United Nations
- A number of employees of the Supreme Council for Women.

Dr. Shaikha Mariam Al khalifa & Lulwa Al Awadhi

Part of the workshop
Workshop on the procedures for the discussion of the national report (First and Second report) of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against women (CEDAW).

The Supreme Council for Women organized a workshop on the procedures for the discussion of the national report (First and Second report) of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against women (CEDAW).

**Duration:**

- 10 September, 2008.

**Place:**

- The Supreme Council for Women.

**Objectives of the Workshop:**

- Training the team on ways of dealing with the CEDAW committee
- Discussing the expected questions from the committee.

**Lecturer:**

- HE. Ambassador Samiha Abou Steit, Advisor to the Secretary General at the National Council of Women, Arab Republic of Egypt.
Participants:

The team in charge of preparing the Kingdom of Bahrain’s report.

Samiha Abou Steit

Part of the workshop
MEDIA PUBLICATIONS
MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

A copy of the convention signed by the Kingdom of Bahrain has been published in the official newspapers.

The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women has issued and circulated copies of the convention along with the publications of the council.

The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women has published a poster highlighting the main articles of the convention and has distributed the posters to civil society establishments, women organizations and official bodies.

The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women has published a booklet with brief contents of the convention for the students of private and government schools of all five governorates.
THE MAIN HEADLINES IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS